Detection of **adulterated cases**

†*227. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the petrol and petroleum products are being adulterated with the nexus of the officers of the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the details of powers vested with these officers to stop adulteration and the number of cases of abuse of these powers reported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have no established case of involvement of their officers in adulteration cases.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, there are Provisions under the Conduct Rules as also the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2005, to take action against officers found involved in irregularities/ malpractices, including adulteration.

(c) The officers are empowered to inspect retail outlets, draw samples and send the samples to notified laboratories for testing. They are also empowered to carry out search and seizure under the provisions of various control orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act. In case any irregularity/malpractice is established, action is initiated against the erring dealer under the MDG/Dealership Agreement. OMCs have reported that no case of abuse of these powers by their officers has been established during the last three years.

Changes in co-operative sector legislation

*228. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Panel set up by Government to suggest changes in the co-operative sector legislation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.